

MEMO

Date: June 16, 2005
To: Community, Economic, and Human Development Committee
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Subject: Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) Update

SUMMARY

During the current fiscal year, staff is preparing draft chapters for a new Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP). The drafts will be circulated shortly for review and comment. The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress and next steps.

BACKGROUND

The purpose of an RCP for the SCAG region is to implement the visions incorporated in various plans by doing the following:

1. Collect and consolidate policies of the Regional Council.
2. Create a clear and usable set of implementation actions, consistent with the region's policies, for outside entities.
3. Form the basis for SCAG's on-going Intergovernmental Review program.
4. Develop a set of plan outcomes and indicators across the full spectrum of planning and resource areas.

Content of Plan

An outline for the RCP has been developed. It includes the following chapter/topics:

- Land Use and Housing
- Air Quality
- Transportation
- Economy and Education
- Water
- Habitat and Open Space
- Energy
- Solid Waste
- Homeland Security

Each chapter will feature a listing of applicable regional policies, an implementation action plan, and a set of desirable plan outcomes.

MEMO

Progress to Date

During the current fiscal year, staff has worked with the Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force (comprised of Regional Council members) to review policies and to devise a preliminary action plan within each of the chapter topics. These two areas will be featured in preliminary draft chapters that will be circulated for review and comment beginning July 1. (Many preliminary draft chapters are currently available on the web – www.scag.ca.gov/rcp.)

There are two chapters, Land Use/Housing and Economy/Education, under the direct purview of the CEHD Committee. Each chapter will be agendized individually for review prior to officially releasing the preliminary drafts. For the Land Use/Housing Chapter, the RCP Task Force has given staff instructions on drafting, and reported issues to this Committee. For the Economy/Education Chapter, the Task Force will conclude its discussions in July and will report to this Committee in September.

Adjustments to Process

In considering how to make best use of the RCP effort, SCAG staff will propose several adjustments to the RCP process, as follows:

Rather than adopt a draft plan early in 2005-2006, and then adopt a final plan later in the year, the near-term action will be to release a preliminary draft for review and comment. This public participation period will be extended to run concurrent with the development of the 2007 RTP. The next RTP and the RCP will be adopted at the same time. The RCP will incorporate new planning and policy work done in the RTP process.

Next Steps

As discussed, preliminary draft chapters will be released within the next 2 months. The focus of effort in the coming year is in developing plan outcomes, and in reviewing and refining action plans. The RCP Task Force will continue to meet monthly, with each meeting focusing on 2 chapter topics. Additionally, some number of RCP Task Force meetings will be coordinated with the Benchmarks Task Force so that a full discussion on outcomes and indicators can be held.